

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLP

IP Department
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
USA

312-372-1121
312-827-8185 FAX

Visit our web site at
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To	Company	City	Fax Number	Phone Number
Examiner Christopher Nofal	USPTO		571-270-4161	571-270-3161

From	Peter Zura
Phone	312-807-4208
Direct Fax	312-345-9994
Client/Matter Number	0112740-01083

Message	<p>Re: Application No.: 10/535,166</p> <p>Attached please find proposed language for claim 21, per our earlier discussion.</p> <p>If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>
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Thank you.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A computer-implemented method for generating a bit stream comprising:

providing an indexing tree including a plurality of hierarchy levels, wherein and each hierarchy level is assigned one or more index nodes, and wherein the index nodes contain index data which that is sorted in the indexing tree according to one or more predetermined criteria;

designating an index node as a parent node;

designating other index nodes as child nodes, with wherein at least one child node branching off branches from the parent node and wherein the at least one said child node being is located in a lower hierarchy level;

inserting and sorting index data of the index nodes into the bit stream, whereby wherein, following insertion of the index data of the parent node, the index data of the at least one child node follows a first node after is offset by one node following the parent node in the indexing tree on account of the sorting and is inserted without information indicating at which position the index data of at least one child node is located in the bit stream; and

inserting information into the bit stream in each case for a child node which does not follow first after is not offset by the one node following the parent node, said information indicating at which position in the bit stream the index data of said child node is located.